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TELEGRAM

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R 291526Z NOV 68
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 542
INFO USUN NEW YORK 591
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
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SUBJ: PRAVDA ON ABM TALKS

1. PRAVDA NOV 29 GIVES BRIEF FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO ROSCHIN'S NOV 28 SPEECH IN UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE. ARTICLE NOTES THAT IN RESPONSE TO INTEREST MANIFESTED BY DELEGATES IN QUESTION SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS ON LIMITING AND REDUCING STRATEGIC MEANS OF DELIVERY NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ROSCHIN REMINDED THEM THAT "SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS STATED ITS READINESS TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION".

2. THIS IS FIRST TIME SINCE GROMYKO'S EARLY OCTOBER UNGA SPEECH THAT SOVIETS HAVE REITERATED IN PRESS THEIR READINESS TO HOLD SUCH TALKS. ALTHOUGH MASUROV DID INDICATE SOVIET INTEREST IN SUCH TALKS IN HIS NOV 6. SPEECH (MOSCOW 6387), THAT PORTION OF HIS SPEECH WAS OMITTED FROM PRESS VERSION. FACT THAT SOVIETS SAW FIT TO PARAPHRASE THIS PART OF ROSCHIN'S SPEECH MAY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF RECENT COMMENTS BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLIFFORD BE DESIGNED TO CONVEY SOVIET HOPES FOR START ON THIS MATTER.

THOMPSON

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